



Republican Senate District 56

March 28, 2011

Minnesota Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board
Centennial Office Building, Suite 190
658 Cedar Street
Saint Paul, MN 55155-1603

Re: Complaint of Theodore Harasyn

Dear Board,

As Chair of Senate District 56 Republicans I have received and reviewed the complaint filed with your board on March 7, 2011. I hope the following information will answer any and all questions the board has of myself, my organization and Chris Soukup, mentioned as "Chris" in your letter dated March 10.

As asked, I have provided answers to questions 1-5 in your March 10 letter.

1. On February 24, 2011 SD 56 Republicans did host a movie night. The event was considered a fundraiser and was discussed and cleared by our executive committee on December 4, 2010. I have included the minutes taken by our Secretary at that meeting.
2. The SD 56 Republicans do not record membership to our organization. There are no membership fees or official sign up log. The emails have been obtained by, but not limited to, the following methods:
 - i. monthly meeting attendance sheet
 - ii. caucus attendance sheet
 - iii. convention attendance sheet
 - iv. SD 56 fundraiser attendance sheet
 - v. volunteer sign up sheets (ex. our booth at Woodbury Expo, Washington County fair and Woodbury Days)
 - vi. some of the email addresses were provided by the previous chair. I am not aware of their origin
3. I received payment for tickets that I personally sold. When the donation amount required full name, address and place of work I was sure to collect that information. Checks were made payable to SD 56 Republicans with only 3 exceptions. The event raised a total of \$1,120.00. I have attached a breakdown of these funds.

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4. In January of 2011 I visited Axel's Restaurant to make arrangements for the February movie night. Chris Soukup came with for this meeting. A quote was not provided at that time. Because we were unsure of attendance, pricing was not finalized until the week of the event.
5. Chris Soukup is an active member of the BPOU. Because he is active in politics and the community, I asked that he help to promote the event and sell tickets. We were also using his DVD copy and holding the movie night was an idea he had approached me with in November 2010. His contact information is listed below.

telephone- 612-877-1760

address- 1624 Namekagon St. Apt 10
Hudson, WI 54016

In addition to the answers provided, I would like to provide a brief narrative to explain some of the actions I have taken. Hopefully this will show that circumventing campaign finance laws was never my intent, nor was it my intent to mislead anyone attending the February 24, 2011 event.

In November of 2010 I began discussing fundraising efforts with some of our more active members. It was during one of these informal discussions that Chris mentioned the movie "Waiting for Superman", an education documentary. This was one of several ideas I mentioned to others and one that seemed to be popular. I presented the idea at our December 2010 Executive Committee Mtg. At that meeting we decided to proceed with a "movie night" but did not set forth a budget. I informed the committee that I would head the movie night fundraiser and recruit help as I saw appropriate.

One afternoon in January, while discussing other business at Axel's Restaurant, Chris and I visited with Traci Meyer, Special Events Manager at Axel's Restaurant. That afternoon we reserved the room and set a date, but did not pay for the room. That same afternoon Chris and I discussed how we would sell enough tickets to make money on the event. Those ideas included, but were not limited to:

- BPOU mtgs
- neighboring BPOUs
- email solicitation
- announcements at GOP events in the area
- newspaper announcements

As we discussed the task of making the event successful, both as a fun event and a fundraiser, Chris and I both realized that it would be a great deal of work and possibly very expensive. At this point Chris volunteered his time and said he would help with ticket sales. Also at this time, Chris informed me that he was willing to donate the room, video equipment, food and any other costs associated with the evening. This donation would be booked as an In Kind Donation. Because we viewed this act as a contribution, we did not consider the need to inform our treasurer of the resulting costs.

At the January BPOU meeting we announced the event for the first time and began selling tickets. Many people, including our Treasurer, bought tickets at this meeting. This meeting provided plenty of opportunity for our Treasurer to confront Chris and ask

him any questions. Not only did she choose to not express her opinions or concerns, she wrote a check for the events and purchased a ticket from Chris. Her check, as well as any others written that day, were written out the the BPOU.

Following the February 24 event, two members of our BPOU became very vocal and expressed dissatisfaction with the way fundraising was being handled within the BPOU. At that time our Treasurer and Vice Chair informed me that they would both be stepping down from their positions. Rumors of a complaint being filed with your office also began to circulate. I found these accusations troubling and became upset that more dialogue had not been requested by the complaint filer. Because of the tenuous situation within the BPOU I decided to withhold the funds raised from the movie night until we elected a new Treasurer on March 5, 2011.

To answer the complaint directly:

- 1) No money was deposited in an account that did not belong to the BPOU
- 2) Checks were asked to be written our payable to SD 56 Republicans. Only 3 individuals, all of whom re-purchased tickets that had already been bought by Chris, made payments to Chris as an individual.
- 3) Our Treasurer had opportunities at the Executive Committee Mtg in December and at the BPOU Mtg in January to get involved in the event. Public announcements were made at these meetings, but she chose not to get involved.

Because our two most recent Treasurers have resigned the position, we are unable to submit an official account of the funds raised on February 24, 2011. Because of this situation, and with full acknowledgment that there is a small faction of unhappy members within our organization, we have decided to return every check and cash contribution made for this event. We fully intend to report Chris' In Kind Donation on the next Campaign Finance Report.

I hope this information will help your investigation and assist you in reaching a conclusion in our favor.

Lastly, I would like to convey my sincere willingness to work with the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board. I hope it is clear that if we have wronged, we have done our best to make things right and intent to circumvent statute was never present in this case. If further explanation or additional information is needed, please feel free to contact me. Chris Soukup and I plan to attend the April hearing and look forward to working with you in the meantime.

Sincerely,



Joe Salmon
Chair, SD 56 Republicans

CASH

Paid Cash at the Door

Donna & Ed Nowak	(\$25)
Yaz	(\$15)
Karen Popken	(\$15)
Betty Marquart	(\$15)
Kathy & Scott Koester	(\$25)
Laurie Johnson	(\$25)
J. R. Brown	(\$15)
Sharon & Jerry Brown	(\$25)
Alex Miller	(\$15)
Rusty Mace	(\$15)
David Schumacher	(\$25)
Darren Schwede	(\$15)
Scott and Rachel Hommuth	(\$25)
SUB TOTAL - \$255	

Paid Cash in Advance

Phil and Karin Housley	(\$25)
Richard Glasgow	(\$15)
Jim Stanton	(\$15)
Joey Gerdin	(\$15)
Eva Ng	(\$15)
Melissa Kieffer	(\$15)
Tina Arsenault	(\$25)
Craig Westover	(\$15)
Joe and Chris Salmon	(\$25)
Chris Soukup	(\$15)
SUB TOTAL- \$180	

TOTAL- \$435

Movie Checks

\$15 (\$45)

Tony or Geri Robinette
Betty Marquardt
Meghan Rooney

\$20 (\$60)

Gary or Susan Richardson
Brian Marum and Linda Stanton
Karen Klinzing

\$25 (\$175)

Derrick and Autumn Lehrke
Allen Dean Shepersky or Doris E Shepersky
Gregory and Kathleen Lohmer
Steve and Ruth Ellenwood
Richard and Jean Sanford
John Elverum and Marie Elverum
John and Andrea Kieffer

Sub Total- \$280

Checks Written to Chris Soukup

Dorothy and Mike Fleming (\$25)
Kelly Fenton (\$35)
Kim Fuhrman (\$25)

Sub Total- \$85

Check from Chris Soukup

Chris Soukup (\$345)
For 23 tickets

Sub Total- \$345

CHECK TOTAL- \$710

our Treasurer, Gary Behren,
will be sending the Dec 4
minutes separately. He was
unable to provide them
before this was sent in.

Thank you.